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URBAN DISTRICT OF SHEPTON MALLET

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(including the Report of the Public Health Inspector)

FOR THE YEAR

1961

SHEPTON MALLET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

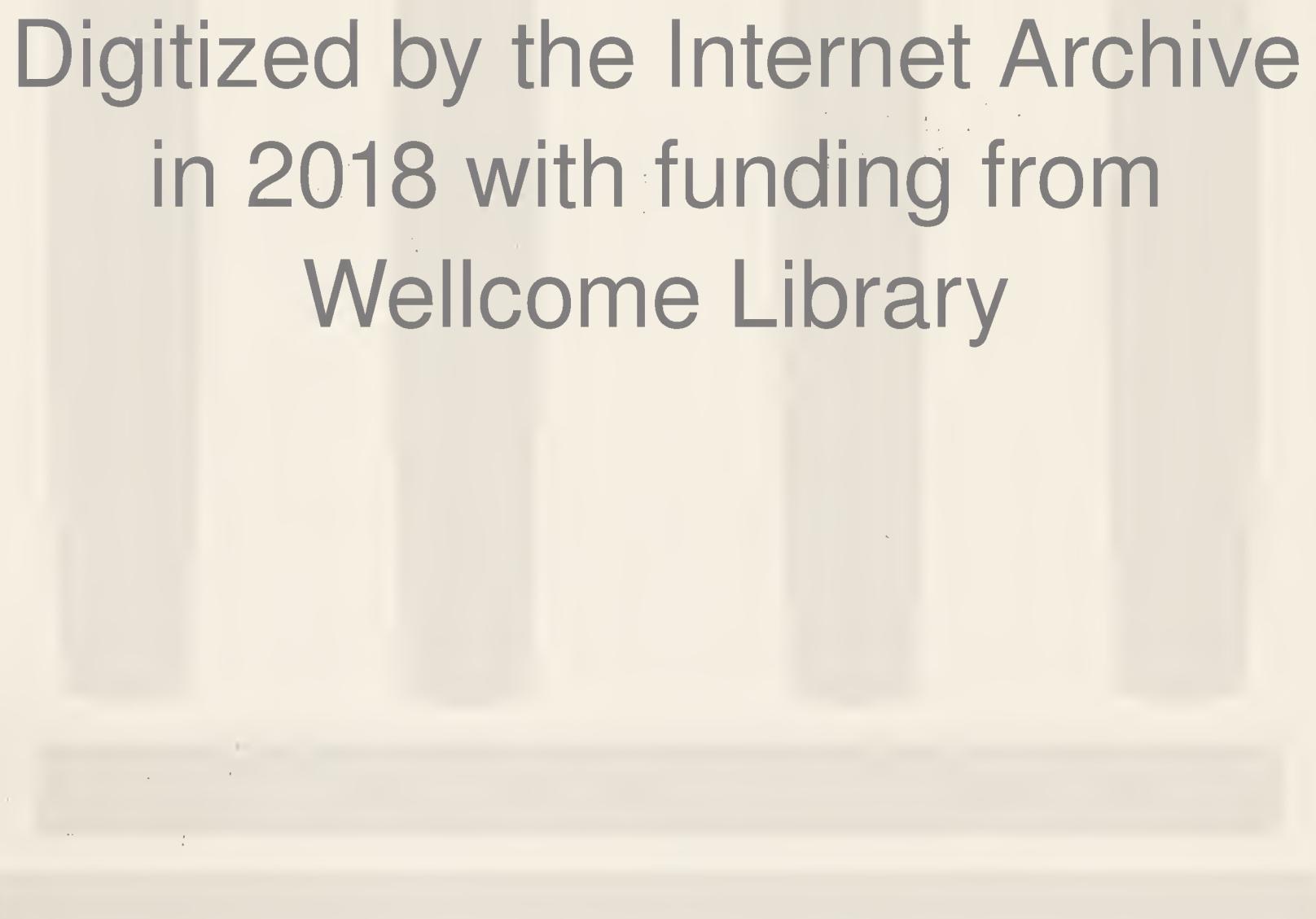
A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

(including the report of the
Public Health Inspector)
for the year ending 31st December 1961

Council Offices,
Market Place,
Shepton Mallet.



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SHEPTON MALLET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS - 1961

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Medical Officers of Health

Dr.F.R.Buckler, L.R.C.P., D.C.H., (to 30.6.61)
Dr.Deryck E.Clare, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., M.R.S.H.
(from 1.7.61)

Public Health Inspector

W.L.Barnsley, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
(who also holds the appointment of Surveyor)

Health Visitor

Miss M.E.Horrell, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., A.R.S.H.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1961.

To the Chairman, Miss Hill and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the Health of the District during 1961.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2,278
Population (Mid-year 1961)	5,550
Number of inhabited houses (1961) estimated	1,833
Rateable Value, 1st April 1961	£68,704
Produce of Penny Rate (estimated)	£276
Number of inhabited houses is based on the following:-	
Dwelling Houses	1,711
Banks and Offices with living accommodation	6
Shops etc. with living accommodation	75
Club Premises with living accommodation	1
Hotels and other licenced premises	21
Public Institutions (Hospitals) etc.	4
Crown Properties	15
Total	<u>1,833</u>

Social Conditions

In addition to shops, offices, building trades and allied trades, the main sources of employment in the town are cider factories (2), brewery, shoe-making, millers, bacon factory and meat products, railways (2), agricultural engineering, research chemists, general engineering (2), garages and motor engineering, rope works, motor haulage.

There is very little unemployment other than that of a transitory nature.

2. MAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1961

(With comparative figures for Somerset and England & Wales where available)

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>S.M.U.D.C.</u>		<u>Somerset</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
				<u>Recorded</u>	<u>Corrected</u>		
Legitimate	37	35	72				
Illegitimate	4	6	10				
TOTALS	<u>41</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>82</u>			8,215	803,843
Rate per 1,000 population	...			14.8	15.1	16.58 (corrected)	17.4

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS

(per cent of total live births) 12.2 4.53

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>S.M.U.D.C.</u>		<u>Somerset</u>	<u>Engla & Wal</u>
				<u>Recorded</u>	<u>Corrected</u>		
Legitimate	1	-	1				
Illegitimate	-	-	-				
TOTALS	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>				

Rate per 1,000 live and still births.

12.05 18.04 19.1

	<u>M.</u>	<u>E.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>S.M.U.D.C.</u>	<u>Recorded</u>	<u>Corrected</u>	<u>Somerset</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
<u>TOTAL LIVE & STILL BIRTHS</u>	42	41	83				8,366	819,474
<u>TOTAL DEATHS</u> (all ages)	33	46	79					
Rate per 1,000 population	...			14.23		11.82	12.77	12,0
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u> (Under 1 year)								
Legitimate	-	-	-					
Illegitimate	-	-	-					
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>				<u>130</u>	<u>17,392</u>
<u>INFANT MORTALITY RATES</u>								
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...				
total live births	...	...		-			15.82	21.6
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births				-			15.93	
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births				-			13.45	
<u>NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATES</u> (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	..	...		-			10.83	15.5
<u>EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	..	...		-			8.9	
<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> (still births & deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live & still births)	...	...	...	12.05			26.8	32.2
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY</u>								
Number of deaths	...	...		-		
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...		-			0.12	0.33

CAUSES OF DEATH

(As given by the Registrar-General for 1961)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Other Infective & Parasitic diseases	...	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	...	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	12
Coronary Disease; Angina	...	4
Hypertension with heart disease	...	2
Other heart diseases	...	10
Pneumonia	...	1
Bronchitis	...	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	-
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	...	1
Nephritis & Nephrosis	...	1
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	...	5
Motor vehicle accidents	...	1
All other accidents	...	1

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>
Measles	46
Scarlatina (Scarlet Fever)	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	3
Whooping Cough	8
Tuberculosis:- Respiratory	1
Other	-
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	2
Acute Encephalitis	1

4. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (S.R.C.47) & AMENDMENT ACT, 1951.

No cases occurred requiring action under the provision of these Acts.

5. ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS

There were no Food Poisoning notifications during the year.

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1961

Although as a general rule the figures are too small for much significance to be attached to them, nevertheless certain broad statements can be made.

Population

The Registrar's estimate of the population of Shepton Mallet Urban District for mid-year 1961 was some 300 more than that of 1959.

Births

Live births in 1961 totalled some 91 less than the figure for the previous year.

The Recorded Birth Rate was 14.8 but the Registrar now provides a correction factor for birth rates, and in the case of Shepton Mallet Urban District this factor was 1.02, which gives a Corrected Birth Rate of 15.1, a figure less than the rate of 16.58 for Somerset and 17.4 for England and Wales.

The number of still births, per 1,000 live and still births, was 12.05, an improved figure compared with 18.04 for Somerset and 19.1 for England and Wales.

Deaths

Deaths from all causes numbered 79 as against 81 the previous year and the Recorded or Crude Death Rate was 14.23. The Corrected Death Rate (Registrar's correction figure 0.83) was only 11.82, which compares favourably with the figure of 12.77 for Somerset and 12.0 for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality

In the absence of any infant deaths during the year the Infant Mortality, Neo-natal Mortality and Early Neo-natal Mortality Rates were all nil.

Due to 1 still birth, the Perinatal Mortality Rate was 12.05, compared with 26.8 for Somerset and 32.2 for England and Wales.

Maternal Mortality

It is gratifying to note that in 1961, as in the previous year, no women in the District died as a result of pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

Causes of Death in 1961

Diseases of the Cardio-vascular System - continue to be the cause of the largest number of deaths. Of these, vascular lesions of the nervous system caused 16 deaths as opposed to 11 caused by coronary disease.

Cancer - deaths from this were (13), and were slightly less than in 1960 (14). With regard to individual types of cancer it will be seen that "Lymphatic neoplasms and malignant types other than lung, heart, stomach or uterus" were responsible for 6 deaths, followed by neoplasms of stomach (4) and lung cancer (2).

Respiratory Diseases - came third in the order of causes of deaths, being responsible for 8 deaths of which 5 were attributable to Chronic Bronchitis.

Notifiable Diseases

The figure of 46 cases of Measles reflects the occurrence of a moderate epidemic of this disease in the town; these outbreaks tend to occur in two yearly cycles.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

7. WATER SUPPLY

The public water supply is operated by the Bristol Water-works Company, is satisfactory in quality and, except in periods of exceptional drought, in quantity. No restrictions on use of water were imposed during the year.

The water is not liable to Plumbo-solvent action.

So far as can be ascertained the houses etc. can be divided up as follows.

Mains supplies direct to houses; 1,675. Population 5,150

Mains supplies by stand pipes 28; Population 80.

Houses supplied by wells 8; Population 20.

Estimated total number of houses in District 1,711.

8. SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Most of the premises in the Urban District are connected to the public sewers discharging to treatment works at Darshill, but approximately 70 properties in outlying parts of the area are not connected to the main drainage system.

1. During the year the first phase of the extensions to the sewage works was completed. This consisted of the provision of additional pumps and pump-house and the necessary pipe-work to enable (a) re-circulation of effluent and (b) dilution of either settled sewage or filter effluent by river water to be operated. Automatic operation is designed so that at low rates the sewage flow river water is mixed with incoming settled sewage to maintain, within limits, a constant rate of flow on to the filters of 3 x D.W.F. Although there was some slight improvement the final effluent was still consistently below Royal Commission standard and it was evident that additional filter capacity would be required to attain this standard.

To this end a scheme was prepared by the Consulting Engineer to the Council and at the close of the year discussions were being held concerning the technical merits of this scheme as compared with that produced by the Consultants to an industrial undertaking in the town.

Ninety four samples of sewage were taken for analysis during the year as follows:-

Trade Effluents	36
Crude Sewage	20
Final Effluent	38

9. CLOSET ACCOMODATION

Total estimated number in District on 31st December 1960:

(1) W.Cs:	1890	(3) Pail Closets:	26
(2) Chemical Closets	0	(4) Other:	0

Number of conversions to water carriage system during year: Nil

10. PUBLIC CLEANSING

The existing arrangements for the collection and disposal of household and trade refuse have been continued. A weekly collection is made at all premises in the District, this work is carried out by Direct Labour, a Ford Thames model 12 cubic yard covered refuse collection vehicle with hydraulic tipping being used; and a 3-ton Bedford model is on hire to the Council when necessary.

As regards trade refuse, the Council make a charge, in normal cases, on the basis of 5% of the rateable value of the trade premises and for this payment collect trade refuse on two days per week and on request. In the case of a large shoe factory, special arrangements have been made for the removal and disposal of their trade refuse, the actual cost being recovered from the occupiers of the premises.

The whole of the refuse is disposed of by tipping on the controlled system at a disused quarry at Winsor Hill, Downside Shenton Mallet, except that some trade refuse and waste paper are incinerated at the tip.

The collection of waste paper continued throughout the year.

In my last report attention was drawn to the fact that this service was being operated, under existing conditions, at its maximum capacity. During the year under review, through a combination of circumstances, there was a danger of a complete breakdown in refuse collection service and it was necessary to completely re-organise and re-route the system. After an initial "settling down" period there was some improvement but the need for a more suitable vehicle became increasingly urgent and with this in mind demonstrations of two vehicles were held, each of two days duration.

11. CAMPING SITES

There are none in the District.

12. PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS & POOL

There is one Swimming Pool at Eastfield in the Urban district owned by the Council. The water is continually circulated, filtered and chlorinated. The temperature of the water is maintained at about 70 deg. F.

The type of purification plant is the Horsey Piggott with a Wallace and Tiernan Automatic Chlorinator.

The turnover period is estimated to be approximately 12 hours. The pool is filled from the mains of the Bristol Waterworks Company.

The daily number of bathers fluctuates considerably, mainly on account of climatic conditions; the estimated maximum daily load is 400 persons, including a large proportion of children, the average during the season is about 130. Residual chlorine and pH samples are taken twice daily.

There is also one privately owned swimming pool.

13. HOUSING

Total number of permanent dwellings in District 1711
Total number of permanent dwellings owned by Local Authority 444

Action taken during year:

(1)	Number of houses included in Clearance Area still to be made	NIL
(2)	Number of houses in Clearance Area which have been patched for temporary accomodation under Sec.48 of the Housing Act, 1957	NIL
(3)	Number of houses demolished under Sec.42 of the Housing Act, 1957 (Clearance Areas)	6
(4)	Number of houses demolished or closed under Sec.17 of the Housing Act, 1957 (individual Unfits) ...	34
(5)	Number of temporary dwellings (huts etc.) demolished	NIL
(6)	Number of houses declared unfit under Sec.9 of the Housing Act, 1957	NIL
(7)	Number of houses closed as a result of an undertaking given by the owners or following the issue of Closing Orders	NIL
(8)	Number of unfit houses occupied under licence ...	NIL
(9)	Rent Act, 1957 (1st Schedule), Certificates of Disrepair (a) Number of applications received	NIL
	(b) Number of Certificates issued	NIL

Houses erected during year:

Local Authority 8 Total: 11
Private enterprise ... 3

13. HOUSING (Contd)

Houses in course of erection:

Local Authority	19	Total 42
Private enterprise	23	

Number of post-war houses erected from 1.4.45 to 31.12.61

By Local Authority: 319

By Private Authority: 86

Housing Programme for 1962 (Local Authority):-

For Slum Clearance	19	(in progress)
For other purposes	0	

(a) Number of temporary units occupied:-

(1) Prefabs: 6; (11) Huts etc. Nil

Houses required:- To replace houses scheduled for demolition: 19

Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of year: 102

14. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS MADE UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS, 1949-54

Number of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority:

<u>Discretionary</u>	1		2		3	
	<u>Received</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Rejected</u>	<u>No. of Aps.</u>	<u>No. of Houses</u>	
	Aps.	No. of Aps.		No. of Houses		
31.7.49 - 31.12.60	21	29	14	19	7	10
During year	1	5(Flats)	1	5	—	—
Total	<u>22</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Standard</u>	9	-	9	-	-	-

15 FOOD

MILK

- (a) Number of Registered Distributors 5
- (b) Number of Registered Dairy Premises (other than Dairy Farms) 5
- (c) Number of licenced Dealers of Designated Milk 5
- (d) Number of supplementary licences issued to distributors whose dairy is outside the area 2 *

* Issued to one dairyman for (a) T.T. and (b) Pasteurised Milk

DESIGNATED MILK SAMPLING

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Samples Taken</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Tuberculin Tested	Nil	—	—
Sterilised	Nil	—	—
Pasteurised	Nil	—	—
Biological Sampling: Nil			

15.

FOOD (continued)

ICE CREAM: Number of premises registered for:-

(a) Manufacture and retail	Nil
(b) Manufacture only	Nil
(c) Retail only	16

In practically all cases, supplies of ice cream are obtained in cartons or wrapped from well-known manufacturers.

In addition to registered premises, ice cream is also sold by many restaurants, hotels, etc., and at the local cinema.

16. SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND BACON FACTORIES

None owned or leased by Local Authority

(a) Private slaughter-houses	Nil
(b) Bacon Factories Licensed 1; Operating	1

There are no slaughter-houses in use where horses are slaughtered for human consumption.

At the C.W.S. Bacon Factory inspections are carried out by staff employed by the Company. Pigs detained by the staff are inspected by a veterinary officer.

Number of pigs killed	23,952
Whole carcases condemned 112	Wt. 1167 lbs.
Part carcases condemned 10	Wt. 227 lbs.
Reported as being affected with abscesses and tuberculosis	

17. FOOD PREMISES

Number of premises registered under Section 16, Food & Drugs Act, 1955 23

18. FACTORIES ACTS 1937 AND 1948

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspection made by the Public Health Inspector)

Premises	M/c line No.	No. on Register	Inspec- tions	No. of written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted	M/c line No.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	22	14	-	-	1
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	20	16	-	-	2
(3) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority x (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	-	-	-	-	3
Total	-	42	30	-	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found - NIL

See over for Factories Acts (continued)

FACTORIES ACT 1937 AND 1948 (continued)

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

Nature of work	M/c line No.	Section 110			Section 111			N/c line No.
		No. of outwork- ers in August list reqd by Sect. 110(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in send- ing lists to the Council	No. of prosec- utions for failure to supply lists.	No. of in- stances of work in un- whole- some prem- ises	Notices Served	Pros- ecu- tions	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Wearing Apparel: Making etc.	13	16	-	-	-	-	-	13
Clean- ing & Washing	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	14

19. CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

No action was necessary during the year.

20. KNACKERS YARDS

Number registered in district Nil

Dr.Deryck E.Clare, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.,M.R.S.H.
(Medical Officer of Health)

W.L.Barnsley, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.,
(Public Health Inspector.)

